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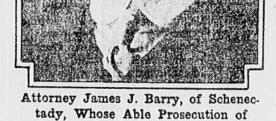
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Druggist Skinner Resulted

in His Conviction.

a man for destroying the efficiency of a plow horse or for damages to factory machinery or to property, he knew also that there was no precedent in law for punishing druggists ruining the efficiency of a human being by selling deleterious drugs.

He realized all the Rooney boy's mother had suffered-her anxiety, suffering and untold worry, as well as the damage inflicted in the destruction of the boy's services. Barry consulted various attorneys in Schenectady and all discouraged him from taking action. Even Supreme Court Justice Kellogg, before whom the action was tried, declared the case appeared a hopeless one. Nevertheless, Barry started suit for \$10,000 damages, and in July, 1915, a verdict of \$2,000 compensatory and \$1,000 punitive damages was re-

Skinner, who was represented by Attorney Christopher J. Heffernan, of Amsterdam, made a general denial of the allegations, contending that he had never sold any heroin to Leo Rooney. He was compelled to admit, however, that he had sold the drug to William Slavin, the boy who had given Rooney his first taste of heroin, and had introduced Rooney to Skinner as being "all right." Skinner also admitted he had sold the drug to a boy named Van Stetina, of Schenectady, and that he had done so without the presentation of a physician's prescription and without labelling the bottle containing the tablets. He declared vehemently that he had never seen the Rooney boy. Despite this

the jury returned a \$3,000 verdict. After the verdict was secured, Attorney Barry says he was offered a settlement of \$1,000 which he refused. Various druggists throughout the State united in the defense of the Skinner firm as, it is said, they realized the importance and danger to them of such a precedent as had been established. Skinner made a motion

Day After Day and Week After Week and Month After Month It Was Shown That Druggist Skinner Sold the Unfortunate Boy Ever-Increasing Doses of Heroin. The Druggist Watched the Youth Sink Lower and Lower, Until the Boy Lost His Employment, His Clothes Became Shabby and His Face Took on the Haggard Look of the Hopeless Drug Fiend. Skinner Warned the Boy Not to Tell Where He Was Getting the Poison. The Boy Finally Became a Thief, and with the Proceeds of His Stealings the Druggist Kept on Selling Him the Cursed Drug

The Alarming Spread of the Drug Habit in the United States

HE United States, through the Bureau of Chem- that those deprived of the stimulation of drink are easy istry of the Department of Agriculture, recently made a thorough investigation of the prevalence of the drug habit in this country, bringing to light some astounding figures. It was claimed, after due inquiry, that perhaps one million habitual users of drugs were living in the United States, but that on account of the natural secrecy surrounding such habits it was possible that there are four million of these sufferers from addiction to drugs which will finally utterly destroy the brain of the users if not stopped.

Dr. T. D. Crothers, president of the Medico-Legal Society, and superintendent of the Walnut Lodge Hospital of Hartford, Conn., claims that the minimum number of habitual drug users is 500,000, though this may be multiplied many times because in a large number of cases, especially among the well-to-do, the fact of addiction to drugs is not made plain until death.

During the first eight months of the enforcement of the "Boylan" law against drugs in New York there were 700 convictions in New York City alone. This is no indication whatever of the extent of use, for many of those convicted were so convicted for selling drugs, and they probably sold these soul destroying drugs to

The most horrible feature of the spread of the drug habit, according to the workers in prisons, is that boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty are the most frequent victims, and that the number of these is increasing almost daily, notwithstanding all efforts of

In prohibition States it has been claimed that the increase in the use of habit-forming drugs is enormous, though no precise statistics are as yet available, but penologists and physicians explain this upon the ground

for a new trial, but was denied by Justice Kellogg. The verdict was carried to the Appellate Division by the counsel for druggist Skinner. The opinion of the

five judges of the Appellate Division—written by Jus-tice Wesley O. Howard, of Troy—unanimously sus-tained the verdict of the Court. The case now rests

before the Court of Appeals, and it is said that so far

"During the time in which these defendants were

the Skinner concern has expended \$2,500 in defense.

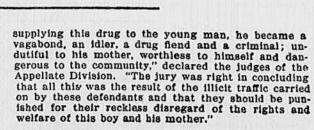
victims to any other stimulant.

The proof of the widespread prevalence of the drug habit lies in the very numerous crowded sanitariums for the treatment of the habit. The Department of Agriculture has a list of more than a hundred of private institutions alone, all crowded.

Dr. Crothers, who is acknowledged to be one of the experts on the effect of these drugs has explained that all of them affect the brain directly, and in the end fatally, unless the patients are properly treated and cured. He claims that in the use of cocaine, for instance, the presumption of brain failure and irresponsibility should be unquestioned. As soon as it is known that a person uses any of the drugs habitually we may be certain that all kinds and degrees of intellectual disorder and states of mental confusion will be found. At first it may be possible to conceal the ravages being made upon the mind, but a careful examination soon reveals the secret.

He gives a case of a forger who was a confirmed cocaine taker, who showed unusual ability in directing his case in court, but who as soon as the cocaine was denied him had confused notions, delirium, finally dementia. Paralysis appears upon the removal or denial of this drug in advanced cases, making the recognition of it absolute.

Dr. Crothers lays down the general law that he claims should be recognized in all cases, that any form of drug addiction exposes the habitue to suspicion of mental unsoundness. The doctor has to inquire when a case is presented to him in how far the mental destruction has progressed. There is no greater curse to the victim, and often to the com-munity, for when under the influence of the drug the victim may commit almost any crazy crime, even murder itself.





This Is Leo Rooney, Now Convict "M-26395." Since His Commitment to the Elmira Refo. Has Been Temporarily Broken of His Drug Habit and Has Improved Rapidly, Physic lly and Morally.

"During the time which these defendants were supplying this drug to a young man he became a vagabond, an idler, a drug fiend and a criminal; undutiful to his mother, worthless to himself and dangerous to the community. The jury was right in concluding that all this was the result of the illicit traffic carried on by these defendants and that they should be punished for their reckless disregard of the rights and welfare of this boy and his mother."